

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of transferring audio-video data, comprising:
receiving a plurality of audio-video data files on at least one remote memory device from at least one data repository;

5 automatically selecting a plurality of groups of files from the plurality of audio-video data files and transferring each group to corresponding ones of a plurality of local memory devices coupled to the at least one remote memory device, wherein the plurality of audio-video data files is automatically selected and transferred from the at least one data repository in accordance with a result of an analysis of profiles of each of the plurality local memory devices, and wherein each group of files to be transferred to corresponding ones of the plurality of local memory devices is selected according to the profile of the corresponding local memory device to which it will be transferred.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the profiles indicate previous file selections by users of the remote memory devices.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one remote memory device comprises a Central Office Storage (COS) device.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the COS device includes at least one of a hard disk, a buffer, and an optical storage device.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the local storage devices comprises a set-top-box (STB).

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the STB includes at least one of a hard drive, a buffer, and an optical storage device, and is configured to output a video signal to a video display monitor to display the contents of the audio-video files stored on the STB.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of local memory devices comprises a set-top-box (STB) used in conjunction with a video display monitor to display selected video recordings, wherein the plurality of audio-video data files comprises a prescribed number of most popular feature film video recordings determined in accordance with viewing statistics compiled from each of the plurality of STBs, and wherein each of the plurality of groups of files comprises a sub-set of the most popular feature film video recordings that best match a user interest profile compiled from the user's viewing statistics received from the user's STB.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first memory device is located at a central office storage facility, wherein each of the second memory devices is located at a set top box coupled to a video display system, and wherein each of the plurality of set top boxes is coupled to the central office storage facility.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein each of the set top boxes is coupled to the central office storage facility using a Digital Subscriber Line.

10. A video-on-demand file transfer system, comprising:
at least one set top box (STB), configured to maintain a list of available data and store a first prescribed portion of the available data;
at least one central office storage and processing device (COS), communicatively coupled to the at least one STB, and configured to store a second prescribed portion of the available data and maintain a database of activity of the at least one STB; and
a main storage facility, communicatively coupled with the at least one COS, configured to store all of the available data, wherein the first and second prescribed portions of the available data are selected based on at least one of user and community interest profiles.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the main storage facility and the COS are co-located.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the first prescribed portion of the available data is a sub-set of the second prescribed portion of the available data.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein the available data includes video recordings of feature films, and wherein the first prescribed portion of the available data includes at least ten of the video recordings, and wherein the second prescribed portion includes at least 500 of the video recordings, and wherein the first and second portions are selected from the available data according to user's viewing habits and video rental statistics as reported by the at least one STB.

14. A method of achieving real time video on demand using Tempo-Differential file transferring, comprising:

receiving a request from a user to view a video;

determining if the requested video is stored on the user's set top box (STB)

memory;

initiating a download of the requested video to the user's STB memory if the requested video is not stored in the user's STB;

prompting the user to input or confirm user information using the STB as
an input device and a video screen as an output device, wherein the time used to input or
confirm user information comprises a first period of time;

displaying initial information on the video screen for a second period of
time;

at least partially buffering the requested video in the user's STB memory
during the first and second prescribed periods of time; and

displaying the selected video on the video screen while completing the
download of the requested video.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the initial information is selected from
among video trailers, studio information, and an FBI warning screen.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the central office is coupled to the user's
STB with a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL).

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the DSL connection is one of ADSL,
SDSL, or VDSL.

18. The method of claim 14, further comprising displaying a blank screen for a third period of time between segments of the initial information and between the prompting screen and the initial information displays.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein the requested video is downloaded from a central office memory.

20. A method of achieving real time video on demand (VOD), comprising:
populating a Central Office Storage Device with a first set of video recordings in accordance with an analysis of a plurality of user's viewing preferences;

populating a user's Set-Top-Box with a second set of video recordings in accordance with a profile of that user's preferences, the second set being a sub-set of the first set;

receiving a request from the user to view a video;

determining if the requested video is currently stored on the user's STB;

initiating a download of the requested video from the COS to the user's STB

if the requested video is not currently stored in the user's STB;

prompting the user to input or confirm user information using the STB as an input device and a video screen as an output device, wherein the time used to input or confirm user information comprises a first period of time;

displaying initial information on the video screen for a second period of
15 time;
at least partially buffering the requested video in the user's STB memory
during the first and second prescribed periods of time;
displaying the selected video on the video screen while completing the
download of the requested video; and
20 updating the user's preferences in accordance with the request to view a
video.